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FACSIMILE COVER LETTER

To: Central Fax Center
Firm: U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Facsimile No.: 571-273-8300
From: William S. Frommer
Date: June 23, 2006
Re: Serial No. 09/894,689
Attorney Docket 450100-03261
No. of Pages: 5
(including cover page)

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00380140

JUN 23 2006

PATENT
450100-03261IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Shigeyoshi HIRASHIMA et al.
 Serial No. : 09/894,689
 For : CONNECTION APPARATUS, CONNECTING METHOD, AND STORAGE MEDIUM FOR STORING
 COMPUTER-READABLE PROGRAM HAVING CONNECTING FUNCTIONS
 Filed : June 27, 2001
 Examiner : King Y. Poon
 Art Unit : 2625

745 Fifth Avenue
 New York, NY 10151
 Tel: 212-588-0800

Mail Stop Amendment
 Commissioner for Patents
 P.O. Box 1450
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Dear Sir:

Transmitted herewith is an amendment in the above-identified application.

- ☒ No additional fee is required.
☐ The fee has been calculated as shown below.
☐ This is an application of a small entity under 37 CFR 1.9(f), and the amounts shown in parentheses apply.

Claims as Amended

(1)	(2) Claims remaining after amendment	(3)	(4) Highest number previously paid for	(5) Percent extra	(6) Rate	(7) Additional Fee
Total claims	9	Minus	** = 20	*0x	\$50 (25)	=\$0
Independent claims	3	Minus	*** = 3	*0x	\$200 (100)	=\$0
Total additional fee for this amendment						\$0

- * If the entry in Column 2 is less than the entry in Column 4, write "0" in Column 5.
 ** If the highest number of total claims previously paid for is less than 20, write "20" in this space.
 *** If the highest number of independent claims previously paid for is less than 3, write "3" in this space.

- ☐ This application contains a multiple dependent claim. The required fee of \$360(180) has been previously paid ☐, or is paid herewith ☐.
- ☐ This response is being filed within the ___ month following the expiration of the term originally set therefore. This is a petition to request a ___ month extension of time. A check covering the cost of the petition is enclosed.
- ☐ A check in the amount of \$ ___ is attached, which covers the cost of ☐ additional claims ☐ petition for extension of time.
- ☐ Charge \$ ___ to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.
- ☒ Please charge any additional fees incurred by reason of this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

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Barnet Shindler
 Signature
 June 23, 2006
 Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,

FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP
 Attorneys for Applicants

By: William S. Frommer
 William S. Frommer
 Reg. No. 26,506
 Tel: 212-588-0800

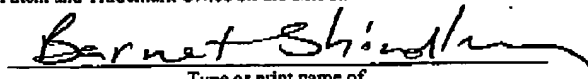
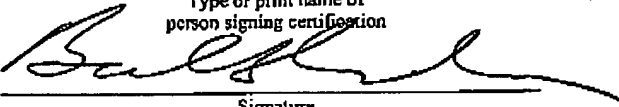
00380136

JUN 23 2006
PATENT
450100-03261**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants : Shigeyoshi HIRASHIMA et al.
Serial No. : 09/894,689
For : CONNECTION APPARATUS, CONNECTING METHOD, AND
STORAGE MEDIUM FOR STORING COMPUTER-READABLE
PROGRAM HAVING CONNECTING FUNCTIONS
Filed : June 27, 2001
Examiner : King Y. Poon
Art Unit : 2625

745 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10151**FACSIMILE**

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Signature
June 23, 2006
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**RESPONSE TO REQUIREMENT FOR
ELECTION OF SPECIES**

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action which issued in the above-identified application
on May 30, 2006, requiring an election of species among those species identified by the
Examiner as follows:

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Species I: the connection source is connected to the connection destination without intervention of an Internet service provider; and

Species II: the connection source makes connection requests to both the Internet service provider and the receiving means.

It is noted that the same Examiner has been responsible for the examination of this application substantially throughout its prosecution. There have been 2 previous Office Actions and the filing of a Request for Continued Examination; and in none of those Office Actions has there been a requirement for an election of species. Evidently, until now, the Examiner had no difficulty in examining all of the claims in this application. While it is recognized there is no rule that prohibits the requirement of an election of species at this late stage in the prosecution of a patent application, nevertheless, in view of the apparent lack of difficulty experienced by the examiner in examining all of the claims, until now, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner reconsider his election of species requirement and withdraw it.

Should the Examiner maintain his election of species requirement, Applicants note the claims read on the identified species as follows;

Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 11 and 12 read on Species I.

Claims 1, 3, 6, 8, 11 and 13 read on Species II.

From the foregoing, it is seen that claims 1, 6 and 11 are generic because they read on both of the species identified by the Examiner.

Applicants elect, with traverse, for the reasons discussed above, Species I, on which claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 11 and 12 read.


Claims 1, 6 and 11 are generic. Accordingly, if any of these generic claims eventually is allowed, it is recognized that the instant requirement for an election of species will be

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withdrawn; and all claims which include the limitations of the generic claims, irrespective of the particular species on which those claims read, likewise will be allowed.

Applicants reserve their right to file a divisional application, if necessary, to proceed with the examination of the non-elected claims.

Respectfully submitted,
FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP

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